

# BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **BOSTON BALLET PRESENTS JOHN CRANKO'S ROMEO & JULIET THE TIMELESS TALE OF STAR-CROSSED LOVERS RETURNS WITH NEW SETS AND COSTUMES**

February 14, 2018 (BOSTON, MA) – Boston Ballet presents John Cranko's *Romeo & Juliet* inspired by William Shakespeare's timeless tale of young love and family rivalry March 15–April 8, at the Boston Opera House.

"Cranko's choreography perfectly matches Shakespeare's epic romantic tale with Prokofiev's luscious score," said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "Through elaborate and complex choreography including gorgeous and intimate pas de deux for the two star-crossed lovers, this ballet showcases the artistry of the Company through their dancing and acting."

The backdrop to the drama are lavish sets and costumes—new to Boston audiences—by internationally-acclaimed German stage designer Jürgen Rose. Rose designed the costumes for the 1962 premiere at Stuttgart Ballet, marking the first time Cranko and Rose worked together. They would be frequent collaborators throughout their careers. Boston Ballet's new costumes and sets are from the 1968 production, which Rose also designed.

The ballet is set to Sergei Prokofiev's dramatic score and will be performed by the Boston Ballet Orchestra, led by guest conductors Gavriel Heine (Mar 15–25) and Mischa Santora (Mar 29–Apr 8). Heine is a resident conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia and music director of Northern Lights Festival Opera in Minnesota. Santora is the artistic director of the Spotlight Concerts at MacPhail Center for Music and the Minneapolis Music Company. Cranko's *Romeo & Juliet* has been praised as "arguably the best dance treatment, at least in the West, of Prokofiev's celebrated ballet score" by Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times*.

Cranko (1927–1973) was a celebrated choreographer serving as ballet director for Stuttgart Ballet for 12 years. He was a mentor to several renowned dancers and choreographers during his tenure as director, including John Neumeier, Jiří Kylián, and William Forsythe. He was also a champion of the narrative ballet with his easy-to-follow stories, colorful characters, and use of dance as a representation of life. His most popular works include *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Onegin*, all of which are in Boston Ballet's repertoire.

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Boston Ballet premiered Cranko's *Romeo & Juliet* in 2008 and performed it again in 2011 to rave reviews. Karen Campbell of *The Boston Globe* described it as a "gorgeous production [that] highlights elegant choreography and vivid storytelling."

**All 15 performances of *Romeo & Juliet* will take place at the Boston Opera House (539 Washington St, Boston, MA 02111):**

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 23, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 1:30 pm\*

Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, April 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 1:30 pm  
Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 1:30 pm

*\*indicates post-show talk with artists*

Tickets start at \$35. For more information, visit [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org) or call 617.695.6955.

*Romeo & Juliet* performance length is approximately two hours and 45 minutes including two intermissions.

Conducted by Gavriel Heine (Mar 15–25) and Mischa Santora (Mar 29–Apr 8)

Choreography: John Cranko

Based on the tragedy by William Shakespeare

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

Sets and Costume Design: Jürgen Rose

Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer

Staging: Jane Bourne

Supervised by Reid Anderson

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World premiere: Dec 2, 1962, Stuttgart Ballet

Boston Ballet premiere: Feb 14, 2008, Wang Theatre, Boston, Massachusetts

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## **About Boston Ballet**

*Since 1963, Boston Ballet's internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community initiative programs, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 54-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance.*

*Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith Max Hodges, the Company maintains a diverse repertoire, ranging from full-length ballets to new works by some of today's finest choreographers. Boston Ballet's second company, Boston Ballet II, is comprised of dancers who gain experience by performing with the Company and independently, presenting special programs to audiences throughout the Northeast.*

*Boston Ballet School, the official school of Boston Ballet, has a long-standing dedication to providing exceptional dance education and ballet training to students across three studios in Boston, Newton, and the North Shore. Led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Director Margaret Tracey, the School reaches more than 5,000 students (toddler to adult) each year through its four core programs: Children's Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, and Pre-Professional Program.*

*Boston Ballet's Department of Education and Community Initiatives (ECI) provides programming, events, and activities that connect the community to dance. ECI reaches more than 4,000 individuals in Boston, North Shore, and the surrounding communities each year through Citydance, ECI on Location, Adaptive Dance, and other community programs.*

*For more information, please visit [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org).*

Boston Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following institutional partners:

Boston Cultural Council  
The Boston Foundation  
Klarman Family Foundation  
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